Continuation of terrorism by Pakistan

262. SHRI RAVULA CHANDRA SEKAR REDDY: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to State:

(a) whether there is no sign of Pakistan moving away from terrorism despite presence of Indian Army on the borders for a year; and

(b) if so, the new approach proposed for a new foreign policy?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI VINOD KHANNA): (a) President Musharraf committed on January 12, May 27 and June 6, 2002 that cross-border infiltration would be ended on a permanent basis, Pakistan would no longer allow its territory to be used for any terrorist activity anywhere in the world, and no organization in Pakistan would be allowed to indulge in terrorism in the name of Kashmir. However, cross-border infiltration and terrorism still continue.

Although, Pakistan took some initial action against some terrorist groups and arrested some low-level cadres, there is no evidence of any firm action against the infrastructure in Pakistan that supports terrorism. There have also been reversals of some of the initial Pakistani steps including release of arrested terrorist leaders and cadres. Despite limited and reluctant support that the Pakistani establishment has provided to the international coalition against foreign Al-Qaeda elements, it has attempted to maintain its support and sponsorship of terrorist groups acting against its neighbouring countries.

(b) The Government have been appropriately and effectively bringing to the attention of the international community facts pertaining to Pakistan's sponsorship of cross-border terrorism and are firmly resolved to take all necessary measures to fight against this menace. There is widespread recognition of Pakistan being the epicentre of international terrorism and several countries have called upon Pakistan to stop its sponsorship or continuing as 'platform' for international terrorism.

India remains committed to resuming bilateral dialogue with Pakistan in the spirit of Simla Agreement and Lahore Declaration. But Pakistan must stop sponsorship of cross-border terrorism for dialogue to be held.